

Rev. R. H. CAIN, Editor.

"First the blade, then the ear; after the full corn in the ear."—Paul

A. J. RANSIER, Associate Editor.

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**The Leader,**  
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Saturday, Aug. 25, 1866.

Rev. R. H. CAIN, Editor.  
A. J. RANSIER, Associate Editor.

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We lay before our readers the following Decree, recently entered in the Ordinary's Court, which will be read with interest by our people throughout the State:

IN MATTER ESTATE OF WILLIAM GREEN, DECEASED—APPLICATION ON PETITION FOR GRANT OF ADMINISTRATION.

Joshua A. Pritchard, on 19th July, 1860 filed a petition in this Court for grant of administration on said estate, alleging he was a co-heir of testator. One Susan Green, representing herself the late wife and widow of deceased, filed in writing a written protest and statement to the judge of the Court, objecting to the appointment of said petitioner to be administrator on behalf of parties interested. On the return of the citation issued and published, one Sarah Green filed a caveat to the grant of said administration to petitioner, alleging she was the only true and lawful wife of decedent during his life, his legal widow, and one of his heirs, and claiming under the statute a prior right to grant of administration, as well as complying with requirements of the law.

It is considered on the trial of this cause it was admitted that the several persons so named, and those who would be entitled to intestate's estate, had formerly been in a condition of servitude to the period of the last Federal and State legislation, introduced to said slaves, population, and who are now entitled to all rights, privileges and benefits, civil and criminal, conferred on them by law, and, incident to the status of freedom to which they are now entitled. The principles involved in the investigation of this subject would admit of an extensive consideration and elaborate discussion, but may be best left to some of the other Courts to examine and deliberate, as they are now considered and finally adjudicated.

Whatever may be a correct legal decision in this case it would chiefly determine, so whom the grant of administration should be entrusted, the possession and control of the assets of said intestate.

The grant of such an administration would indicate and enable creditors and heirs in some other forum to investigate and establish their claims to intestate's property. The provisions of acts of Assembly, 1865, page 331, and other legislation may be construed and considered retrospective and prospective in all that relates to the civil rights and privileges of that class of persons included in its provisions as respects property the marriage or any other relation they may sustain. The antecedents of such persons in all these respects are to be considered as they now exist or may hereafter exist under law.

The emanation of the above views suggests the propriety and expediency of stating some of the provisions of the Act of 1865, which declares the relation of husband and wife amongst persons of color is established. Those who live as such are declared to be husband and wife; cohabitation with reputation or recognition of the parties shall be evidence of marriage in cases criminal and civil. Every colored child heretofore born is declared to be the legitimate child of his mother, or of his colored father, if he is ac-

knowledged by such father. Persons of color desirous hereafter to become husband and wife should have the contracts of marriage duly solemnized. A Clergyman, the District Judge, or Magistrate, or any judicial officer, may solemnize marriages.

These provisions, with other legislation, and the principles to be deduced, authorize the views and principles which should regulate and decide the law applicable to the facts testified to in this case.

It has been distinctly proved that the contestants, Sarah Green, about twenty-five or thirty years since was married to deceased, and were reputed, and all who knew them in Church or State records, as his husband and wife; they took the names of Sarah Green and William Green. There was offspring of said marriage—three children, one of whom now survives—a son, about twenty-one years of age. About fifteen years since, William Green abandoned Sarah Green and his family and afterwards investigation had as to the circumstances of said separation by a Committee of members belonging to a Church in Charleston, in charge of Rev. John B. Adger, it appears from a certificate from Church records from Rev. J. L. Girardeau that said William Green was married to the second wife, Susan Green, sometime in 1852, and the nuptial services performed by Rev. Ferdinand Joddes, and that said first wife left surviving five children, the offspring of said second marriage.

The first wife, Sarah Green, and her sons were both living at decease of intestate, and during the period of his disease never claimed her condition and always recognized and considered intestate her true and lawful husband.

This first marriage being established, it continued to the period of intestate's decease. No law has ever existed in this State to terminate or dissolve said marriage during the lifetime of the parties. Any subsequent cohabitation by intestate with another woman under whatever circumstances it may have been made so, recognized with attendant consequences of offspring and the like would be imperative, mutual, valid, and could in no manner impede or abate the cohabitation of the parties. Any subsequent cohabitation with another woman during the time of his legal widowhood, and one of his heirs, and claiming under the statute a prior right to grant of administration, as well as complying with requirements of the law.

It is considered on the trial of this cause it was admitted that the several persons so named, and those who would be entitled to intestate's estate, had formerly been in a condition of servitude to the period of the last Federal and State legislation, introduced to said slaves, population, and who are now entitled to all rights, privileges and benefits, civil and criminal, conferred on them by law, and, incident to the status of freedom to which they are now entitled. The principles involved in the investigation of this subject would admit of an extensive consideration and elaborate discussion, but may be best left to some of the other Courts to examine and deliberate, as they are now considered and finally adjudicated.

Whatever may be a correct legal decision in this case it would chiefly determine, so whom the grant of administration should be entrusted, the possession and control of the assets of said intestate.

The second wife, Susan Green, would not in law be the wife of intestate, nor would she and her offspring be entitled to inherit any portion of decedent's estate. In this Court, and as respects the proceedings pending, she stands in the relation of any other person or stranger, and neither herself nor any nominee she may recommend would be entitled to Administration, when claimed by the first wife, Sarah Green.

The same rules of law would be applicable to the persons and estate in this case as would have attached to any other persons, suitor or litigants, in similar proceedings before this Court. Sufficient has been considered in reference to the issues pending in this Court to authorize an adjudication that Sarah Green was the first and lawful wife of decedent, and so continued to the period of his decease, and that the legislation and laws of this State sanction such an adjudication as to persons and parties to these proceedings, that said Sarah Green is entitled to the grant of administration under the laws of this State, and she is herein appointed administratrix, provided she execute a sufficient administration bond with two sureties on or before 25th of August, 1866, and on her failure or neglect so to do, then in that event the petitioner, Joshua A. Pritchard, (a creditor) constituted administrator on complying with the same terms and conditions.

In the courts of Ordinary in this State for more than a half a century preceding the recent legislation in reference to persons of color, a portion of the inhabitants consisted of respectable and industrious free persons of color, who by prudence and economy, accumulated property, real and personal, and mixed, which on the decease of

any of them was subject to the same laws of inheritance, disposition by will and administrations incident thereto.

The same adjudications and proceedings were enforced as applicable to white persons. This security and protection to rights of property, and its incidents of free colored descendants for so long a period exerted a favorable influence on the character and usefulness of that class of our population.

The records of this Court contain numerous estates of that class of persons administered and settled on the same principles and by same proceedings. It has worked harmoniously and successfully. No one during that time ever desired or proposed a modification or discrimination of any kind in administering the estates of the white inhabitants and the free colored inhabitants.

There exists in this Court as heretofore, and no doubt will so continue in reference to the estates and rights of all the numerous free persons of color who may decease, and who by recent legislation and changes, constitute a large portion of our present population. Given under my hand and seal of office at Charleston, this fourteenth day of August, Anno Domini 1866.

[L.S.] GEORGE BUIST,  
Judge of Probate.**The Needle Gun Described.**  
*[From the Detroit Post]*

The needle gun is a breech-loading rifle, of a very simple construction. It has a name from the fact that the powder is ignited not by a long-continued wick, but by a needle detonating the cartridge and igniting the remaining material by friction. At the breach of the gun there is a handle in the form of a hilt. By moving this handle to one side, which is done by a very simple and rapid motion, the breech is opened, the cartridge is then slipped into the aperture, and the handle is returned to its original position, closing the breech. By the same motion the needle is pressed back, so as to be driven into the recoil dart forward, into the breech, through a small hole in the lower end of the barrel, pierces and ignites the remaining material in the cartridge, thus exploding the powder. The manual operation by which this is accomplished is exceedingly simple, and can be performed with great facility, so that this needle gun can easily be loaded and discharged three or four times while a common musket is loading 13 to 15 times. The needle gun is very light and handy, can be relied upon at long range, and carries the bullet with great accuracy.

It was first introduced in the Prussian army nearly twenty years ago. If we remember correctly, some indications of the Guards had it already in 1818, in the first Schleswig-Holstein war. In 1819, when the King of Prussia sent us troops to the various parts of Germany to suppress insurrectionary movements, it was in the hands of several regiments of the line. In the second Schleswig-Holstein war, in 1861, it was tested on a large scale, and now in the great battles of Bohemia it has gone through its trials and conclusive trial.

The needle gun is probably not the best breech-loading firearm in existence. One of its disadvantages consist in the needle sometimes becoming bent or otherwise injured; but the Prussian soldier carries several reserve needles in his pouch, and is easily supplied. If the manufacturer succeeds in getting out the old needle and replacing it with a new one, an operation easily accomplished, as the whole machinery of the lock is of very simple construction. But whatever its perfection or its imperfection may be, the needle gun has uncontestedly proved its immense superiority over the musket by the most reliable tests, and all the arguments against placing a breech-loading fire-arm in the hands of ordinary infantry, and especially of young and inexperienced soldiers are swept away.

**A Sensible Landlord—An exchange says.—**A intelligent transposed some weeks ago at one of our Frankfort hotels, which is worthy of notice. A little girl entered the bar-room, and in pitiful tones told the keeper that her mother had sent her there to get eight cents.

Eight cents? said the keeper.

Yes, sir.—What does your mother want with eight cents? I don't owe her anything?

Well, said the child, father spends all his money here for rum, and we have had nothing to eat to day. Mother wants to buy a loaf of bread.

A boor remarked to the barkeeper, Kick her out!

Not, said the keeper, I'll give her the money, and if her father comes back again I'll kick him out!—Selected.

**LOOK OUT!****SILE IS COMING.****She Is Coming.****REPAIR TO MEET HER!****Prepare to meet her****SHE WILL LECTURE.****She will Lecture.****TO THE PEOPLE.****To the People.****SHE WILL READ.****Sept. 3rd Drama.****FRANCES W. HARPER.****The distinguished Colored  
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offers a fine variety of interesting articles. "How my New Acquaintances Spun" is an interesting account of the silk-producing species of South Carolina; their discovery, habits, and uses, by Dr. Warden. What did she see with it? is a very singular story founded on facts, well known to the inhabitants of —, —, —. The circ. Doctor, Part II, "gives the confusion of Miss Alice Cary's absorbing and touching story, "A Woman's Convalescence," the grip of a book-lover about rare editions of immortal authors. "Passages from Hawthorne's life in the Old Manor at Concord, From the Chimney Corner" Mrs. Stowe, discourses of party-giving and party-going, and how to get out of both very gracefully and pleasantly. "London Forty Years Ago," contains John Neal's recs. of various eminent persons, scenes and persons in the English capital. "A Yea in Montana" is a very interesting paper, by Hon. Edward B. Neally, U. S. District Attorney of Montana, giving his observations of gold mining and mineral veins in the territory. Prof. Agassiz contributes another graphic article on the Physical History of the Valley of the Amazon. "Griffith Gaunt" is continued, and fine poems are furnished by James Russell Lowell and Bayard Taylor.

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The unfeigned recommendation we receive from all parts of the globe prove them to be just exactly what we claim.

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THE READ THE EVIDENCES!!

New York, April 22, 1864.

Geo. C. Hubbel &amp; Co., Hudson, N. Y.—Gentlemen having been the recipients of inaccurate information concerning the effects of our product, we have now, in our practice, with very satisfactory results, and find it particularly well adapted to correct derangements of the system, and to remove the effects of debility, weak, and inferior tissues, and to give superior tissue, and also to correct delicate constitutions.

Yours, &amp;c., Doctors J. F. &amp; T. B. Norton.

No. 55 Hudson and 43rd Street.

New York March 22, 1864.

Messrs. Geo. C. Hubbel &amp; Co., Hudson, N. Y.—Gentlemen having been the recipients of inaccurate information concerning the effects of our product, we have now, in our practice, with very satisfactory results, and find it particularly well adapted to correct derangements of the system, and to remove the effects of debility, weak, and inferior tissues, and to give superior tissue, and also to correct delicate constitutions.

Yours, &amp;c., Dr. J. F. Norton.

No. 55 Hudson and 43rd Street.

Montreal, July 11, 1864.

Messrs. Davis &amp; Bolton—Gentlemen—on the last evening month I have had an audience with your firm, and you have given me a copy of your advertisement, which I have read with much interest.

I am sorry to say, however, that since the last meeting, I have had no opportunity to speak with you again, and have not had time to make a reply.

I have, however, had time to read your advertisement, and I have found it to be a very good one.

I have, however, had